

# A Taxing Time Then and Now...



## *Then...*

*In 1773, a group of American colonists protested unfair British taxation by dumping imported tea off ships and into the sea. Their actions spurred the Revolutionary War and led to American independence.*

## *Now...*

*In 2007, hundreds of Marion County residents rally to express their anger against an unjust property tax. Their actions are increasing the political will to solve this escalating problem.*



The citizens' uproar launched throughout the state is calling officials to act and to think hard about real solutions to this devastating problem.

**“I have never seen the political will greater than it is right now to get this done!”**

**- State Rep. Cindy Noe**

Indiana's property tax system is unjust because:

1. It taxes unrealized gain.
2. It is not an accurate measure of wealth or ability to pay.
3. It is not consistently applied.
4. You can never really “own” your home.
5. It is unpredictable and you cannot budget it.

There are measures that can be taken at either the local or state executive level to provide immediate assistance to those hit hardest. Included might be such remedies as a homestead credit filing extension or immediate reassessment in counties where there are apparent gross discrepancies. Clearly, refund checks delivered months from now will not help those facing huge increases today. We must work with local governing units so they do not falter. We need to allow these measures and other tools, like the recently filed class action lawsuit, to buy time and assist property owners today.

However, in order to really deal with this problem for future years, we would be wise to leverage our current property tax crisis to propel an answer to the broader question:

**What is the most efficient, effective, Hoosier-friendly taxing structure that is compatible with a 21st-century economy?**

I agree with House Republicans who called for a nonpartisan panel of fiscal tax experts to help to answer this difficult question.

In addition to officials who work directly with our taxing system, I suggest two more groups. We would be well served by including those individuals who know Indiana and taxes, as well as those who operate at national level think tanks, such as The Heritage Foundation. The panel will have to address many complex issues.

The process toward real change will have to be thoughtful and deliberate. It will take boldness by the government and its citizens. Taxpayers are proving they are bold, and elected officials are showing signs of that same boldness. We have a small window of opportunity now. Let's not lose momentum. Keep the tea coming, Indiana!

***Distributed by: State Representative Cindy Noe***